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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

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HEADLINES

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US Rejects Cuban Aid Offer for Katrina Victims - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Hadley Due in Ankara for Talks: Stephen Hadley, the
National Security Advisor to President Bush, will be in
Ankara today for a two-day visit to hold talks at the
Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) and the National Security
Council (NSC), papers report. Hadley will also meet Prime
Minister Erdogan and Chief of the Turkish General Staff
(TGS), General Hilmi Ozkok. Hadley will discuss the PKK,
Iraq, Iran, and Cyprus, according to press reports. "Sabah"
reports that Ankara has prepared an intelligence report
detailing financial sources and front groups of the PKK in
several countries, including the United States. The PKK has
an annual income of 150 million Euro, of which 50 million
Euro comes from drug and human trafficking, the report
claims. The report also suggests that financial flows to
the PKK are being handled by the Kurdish Employees
Organization (KARSAZ) in Germany, and the Kurdish Democratic
People's Forces (ERNK).

Hughes to Visit Turkey: US Undersecretary of State for
Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Karen Hughes, will
visit Turkey September 27-29 on the last leg of her regional
tour. Her stops in Ankara and Istanbul will follow visits
to Egypt and Saudi Arabia early next week. Hughes will meet
with senior government officials, university students, and
leaders of religious and non-governmental organizations in
Ankara and Istanbul. Hughes, a longtime advisor to
President Bush, will try to counter negative attitudes about
US policies in the Middle East on her first official trip
overseas. "Zaman" asserts that Hughes has been assigned by
President Bush to 'polish' the image of the United States
around the world.

Court Suspends Bogazici University Armenian Conference:
Papers report that a Turkish court blocked on Thursday a
conference that was to have questioned Ankara's official
line on the controversial mass deportation and killings of
Armenians during the last years of the Ottoman Empire. An
administrative court in Istanbul accepted a complaint by a
group of lawyers who opposed the gathering. The conference,
entitled 'Ottoman Armenians of an Empire in Decline,' was to
have opened on Friday at the prestigious Bogazici University
in Istanbul. The meeting was to have brought together about

60 researchers to examine the alleged atrocities committed in eastern Anatolia between 1915 and 1918, as well as the denial of genocide by the Turkish state. The conference had already been canceled earlier this year after Justice Minister Cemil Cicek characterized such a discussion as a 'stab in the back' to the Turkish nation. Bogazici University had been asked to supply the court with information on the case within 30 days. 'It is not possible for me to approve of this decision,' Prime Minister Erdogan told the press: 'I think that it is against democracy, freedom, and modernity to obstruct such a platform when it is not even known what will be discussed.' Foreign Minister Gul reacted strongly to the court ruling as well, saying that 'there is no other country that harms its own interests as much as we do.' Gul noted that he would 'not be surprised' to see other moves intended to damage Turkey's EU drive on the eve of October 3, the opening date for talks on Turkey's membership in the European bloc. The EU Commission described the suspension of the conference as 'a new provocation,' expressing regret over the ruling that blocks an 'attempt to debate Turkish history freely.' The EU's Joost Lagendijk said that the ruling showed that reforms in Turkey must continue, and that the new Turkish penal code is inadequate. "Milliyet" reported from Washington that the suspension of the conference will deal a blow to Turkish lobbying activities in the United States. Turkish diplomats in the US had been citing the conference as an example of tolerance in Turkey. US officials were disappointed with the court ruling, which came amid attempts to block two Armenian 'genocide' bills in the US Congress, "Milliyet" reports.

Ankara: EU Turkey Declaration One-Sided, Politically Motivated: On Thursday, Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Spokesman Namik Tan said that the EU declaration criticizing Ankara's refusal to recognize Cyprus was 'unjust, one-sided and politically motivated.' The EU declaration said that Ankara will have to recognize Cyprus before it can join the EU. 'We regret this counter-declaration. It has a style which does not accord with the traditional spirit of cooperation that has existed between Turkey and the EU over a period of 40 years,' Tan said. He said the declaration ignored the rights and expectations of the Turkish Cypriots, describing this as a 'serious injustice.' Tan called on the EU to keep its promises to lift economic sanctions on Turkish Cypriots, and to provide financial aid to the north of the divided island. Prime Minister Erdogan said on Wednesday that the EU counter-declaration contained 'contradictory' elements. 'The negotiation framework document matters more to us, and therefore we are following that very closely,' Erdogan said. The EU declaration came in response to an earlier declaration by Turkey in July, which said that the extension of Turkey's customs protocol with the EU to all new member states did not imply recognition of Cyprus. Ankara then continued to block Greek Cypriot vessels and aircraft from calling at Turkish ports and airports. The EU declaration said that the EU expected Turkey to fully implement the customs union and remove 'restrictions on means of transport,' noting that the EU will 'evaluate' full implementation of the customs union in 2006.

US Gives 6 Million USD for Education of Turkish Children: US Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney said that the United States has apportioned 6 million USD in an effort to encourage school enrollment for 10,000 Turkish children who stay at home or are sent to work. 'In this year alone, the United States Government has contributed 15 million USD for programs dedicated to helping the children of Turkey get the education that they want and so richly deserve. A few months ago we gave 9 million USD to help poor families keep their children in school. Today, we are launching a 6 million USD program to help families working in agriculture get their children out of the fields and into school,' McEldowney said at a signing ceremony for the US grant, at which Turkey's Education Minister Huseyin Celik and Labor Minister Murat Basesgioglu joined the Charge on Thursday. 'The project will give Turkish children what we want to give to our children - a helping hand and a chance to make their lives better,' McEldowney said. The project will end in September 2008, and will include school-age children in Turkey's southeastern and eastern provinces of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin, and Elazig, and the capital Ankara.

Denmark Rejects Closure of Pro-Kurdish ROJ TV: Papers report that Denmark has rejected Ankara's demands for the closure of the television channel ROJ-TV, known to be close to the PKK and the Kurdish cause. Danish authorities considered an application by the Turkish embassy in Copenhagen, but decided not to ban ROJ-TV, saying that the station's broadcasts do not violate Danish law. In New York last week for the United Nations summit, Prime Minister Erdogan had complained about ROJ-TV to his Danish counterpart. Meanwhile, the Turkish Embassy in Riyadh has asked Saudi Arabia to suspend broadcasts of the 'PKK mouthpiece' ROJ-TV, which uses Saudi-based "Arabsat" to

reach the Middle East.

Farmers Demonstrate against Rising Costs: Turkish farmers rallied in the western province of Manisa on Thursday to protest against high oil prices and input costs, papers report. About 80,000 angry farmers flocked to Manisa for the rally, claiming that state incentives were not sufficient to counteract increasing costs. The farmers called on the ruling AK Party to honor its promises to farmers and agricultural workers.

Five PKK Militants Surrender: Five members of the outlawed PKK turned themselves in to Turkish jandarma at the Habur border gate, sources told the press on Thursday. Meanwhile, security forces seized 2 kg of C-4 explosives and 600 grams of TNT at a house raid in Turkey's eastern province of Van. The house belonged to two PKK terrorists arrested early yesterday morning following a clash with security forces in which three militants were killed.

Turkmen Killed in Attack in Mosul: Two Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) officials were killed by armed assailants in front of the ITF office in Mosul on Thursday morning, Turkish papers report. A Turkmen guard was seriously wounded in the attack. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) strongly condemned the attack in an official statement.

110 Turks Killed in Iraq Since March 2003: "Yeni Safak" reports that 110 Turkish businessmen, workers, and truck drivers were killed, and 87 others abducted in Iraq since March 1, 2003. The report cites statistical data provided by the Habur border crossing.

EDITORIAL OPINION: German Elections; EU/Turkey

"The German Elections and the US"
Haluk Ulman wrote in the economic-political "Dunya" (9/23): "There are many uncertainties in the aftermath of German elections. Angela Merkel hopes to lead the coalition, but it remains to be seen if she will succeed in keeping her party leadership. Schroeder's position at the head of the SPD is also shaky. Unless these two leaders agree on a grand coalition formula, Germany will go through a period of political uncertainty. Among the losers of the German elections, we should also mention the US -- particularly in connection with the Bush administration's Iraq policy. From the beginning, Schroeder has stood against the US policy in Iraq, and has not collaborated with President Bush. It is no secret that President Bush does not like him. Merkel, on the other hand, pursued a very pro-American stance. Merkel's unsuccessful performance in the election is bad news for Washington. . The EU should also be seen as a loser. The uncertainty in Germany will bring more trouble for the EU, especially following the rejection of the EU Constitution by France and the Netherlands."

"The EU's Trouble Maker"
Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/23): "The tactical games played by the Greek Cypriots during the COREPER talks are only the beginning. Once the EU starts negotiations with Turkey on October 3, we are sure to see more tricks from the Papadopoulos government. Following the COREPER talks, EU circles in Brussels have started grumbling about the intransigence of the Greek Cypriots. But who is to blame in this? Those very same circles last year defended the inclusion of the Greek Cypriots in the EU, and did not want to accept that they were importing trouble into the Union. . It is certain that the accession of Greek Cyprus to the EU has made the settlement of Cyprus problem more difficult than ever before. The EU now must deal with Papadopoulos' efforts to impose its own terms on the entire European Union. . Given the current situation, it looks as if Papadopoulos has chosen the EU as his battlefield. Unfortunately, it was the EU that allowed this to happen."

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